

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 23 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we concluded last week we saw that Psalm 22 gave us a perspective of Jesus Christ as our Savior who has finished the work for us, paying in full the penalty for our sins. This evening, in Psalm 23 we will see Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the One who leads us, guides us, protects us and-so-on. And as we move on into Psalm 24 we will see Jesus as the Sovereign Lord. In other words, in these three Psalms we see Jesus' death, His life and His coming again!

It is interesting to note that the Bible does not describe us as lions, or tigers or even bears, oh my. In fact, of all the creatures of God's wonderful creation the one He picks to describe us are sheep! These are not the brightest creatures around. If one sheep falls over a cliff, many times the others will just follow along. In fact, sheep are really defenseless although Julie and I saw a trailer for an old horror flick and it was showing these sheep out in the meadow and then all of a sudden, they started attacking and killing people, breaking through doors. They were killer sheep! Only in movies folks! As we will see, sheep need the help of a shepherd, they can fall down and they can't get up at times. No medical alert here!

Also, if you want a great book to read regarding this Psalm, Phillip Keller's book, *A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23* is the one to read. Phillip Keller was a shepherd and he gives some very interesting insights regarding sheep and the shepherd. You will be blessed by this book as he then looks at how this all pictures our Savior, our Shepherd, Jesus Christ!

One last thing and that is when did David write this Psalm? We are not really sure; it could have been when he was out in the fields watching his sheep. It could have been when he was the King over Israel. It could have even been at the end of his life. We don't know and it really doesn't matter because the key, no matter where you are at in your life, is you need to let the Shepherd, Jesus Christ be the one who guides you and then you need to follow Him! So with that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 23, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 23

VERSE 1

1. First of all this Psalm is not for everyone, it is only for those who can say, “**The LORD is my shepherd.**” And this is so important because many misuse or misapply this Psalm. The fact of the matter is that it is not enough that the Lord is “A” shepherd or even “***THE***” shepherd. He must be “***YOUR***” shepherd! And understand we all have shepherds or someone or something that is leading or guiding us. If your shepherd is not the Lord you will never be satisfied. If your shepherd is the Lord you can rest in Him, you need nothing else for He will supply your needs. There is an inward peace to your life as you rest in Him and that is manifested outwardly in our actions. Why are so many Christians restless, not satisfied in the life that God has given to them? Because they are not resting in Him! That may seem harsh but think about this, David said if the Lord is your shepherd then you “**shall not want.**” In other words, you will be satisfied!

2. Let's take this to the New Testament and see what it says regarding satisfaction. Paul tells us in Philippians 4:11-13, "**Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**" Paul is saying that the reason he is content is because He is resting in the Lord and He needs nothing but the Lord. You see, the Lord will give him exactly what he needs to do the things that He wants Paul to do and there is satisfaction, there is rest, contentment in that!

One more and this is from I Timothy 6:6-8 where Paul tells us, "**Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.**" In other words, be satisfied with the basic necessities of life and if the Lord gives more, that is great, if He doesn't that is great but contentment, satisfaction is not found in things but the Lord. That is what David is saying here in the opening verse of this Psalm.

VERSE 2

1. Sheep are very anxious creatures and they will not lie down unless there is a freedom from fear and a freedom from hunger. Notice that it says that the Lord, our Shepherd, **“makes”** us lie down, why is that? Because many times we are so busy doing this and doing that and we don’t take the time to lie down and feed upon the Lord, be refreshed by Him. And what I mean by feeding on the Lord is that we are reading, studying and applying God’s Word to our lives and with the waters of the Holy Spirit opening up the Word of God to our lives. When we do that all the anxiety and all that fear, all that is going on around us that is causing us to not lie down; the Lord **“makes”** us lie down because it is what we need. What we see here in this picture is an inward peace that is found only in Christ.

VERSE 3

1. As the Lord leads us to the **“green pastures”** and the **“still waters”** what is the result? Our soul is restored, we are refreshed, we are back on track! We as sheep do not know where the **“green pastures”** and the **“still waters”** are, but on a positive note, we know where the Shepherd is and thus, He will guide His sheep to where they need to go. What we need to do is follow Him, allow Him to make us lie down and be refreshed!

2. And notice that the Lord leads us in **“paths of righteousness”** and that is important for us to understand. If we are doing things that are not righteous, if they are not good, the Lord is not leading and you need to turn back to Him so your soul can be refreshed!

3. Now why does the Lord do this? We are told that it is “**For His name’s sake.**” All that the Lord does, as He restores our vitality, restores our soul, is to bring honor to Him! It is not about us, but it truly is about bringing glory to God through our lives. Clarke wrote, “To display the glory of his grace, and not on account of any *merit* in me. God’s motives of conduct towards the children of men are derived from the perfections and goodness of his own nature.”

VERSE 4

1. Because of this verse we hear this Psalm read at funerals, and rightly so, but I also believe it is speaking to us as we live out our lives. We are going to go through those valley’s you might say in our lives but the key to me is that it says that as “**I walk**” and not as “***I stop!***” We are going through these valley experiences, these trials, these testing’s of our faith so that we will grow and we are not alone for it is the Lord who leads us into the valley and then up to the mountaintop! And when you have that perspective you will not be fearful. But when you are not looking to the shepherd, when we seem to be all alone, there is fear, there is anxiety. Keep your eyes on the Shepherd and rest in Him! He will give you those times of refreshing that you need and during those dark times, He is with you!

2. What about in death, that does not seem to be speaking of a walk through? But it is. You see, the sting of death has been removed by Jesus and thus, when this body dies we go to be with the Lord! In other words, the worst thing that death can do to us is really the best thing! The sting of death is removed!

3. David also says that it is the Shepherd's "**rod**" and "**staff**" that comfort him. What does that mean? The rod was a stick or club that the shepherd would use to ward off any animals that would come and try to attack the sheep. The staff was a long rod with a hook on the end and the shepherd would use this to pull a straying sheep back to the flock. The rod was used for protection, the staff, in a sense, for communion, bringing the sheep back to the flock and that is why they brought comfort to David. He knew that the Lord was there protecting him and bringing him back if he got off course! And folk's, that should bring to us great comfort also!

VERSE 5

1. Now as you would go through these valleys you would eventually end up on the mountaintop and as you did you would break forth to areas called mesa's or flat areas that may resemble a table. It is here that we can eat in safety, even though the enemy is all around us, because our shepherd is watching out for us. Now you would think we can eat in safety because the enemy is not even close, but that is not what David is saying. God does not remove us from various situations, but in the midst of them He feeds us!

I like the way that Spurgeon put it as he wrote, "When a soldier is in the presence of his enemies, if he eats at all he snatches a hasty meal, and away he hastens to the fight. But observe: 'Thou *preparest* a table,' just as a servant does when she unfolds the damask cloth and displays the ornaments of the feast on an ordinary peaceful occasion. Nothing is hurried, there is no confusion, no disturbance, the enemy is at the door and yet God prepares a table, and the Christian sits down and eats as if everything were in perfect peace." I love that picture of what the Lord is doing in our lives and how He feeds us!

2. We are also told that the Lord is anointing our heads with oil, what is that about? The reason a shepherd would do this is to keep the bugs and ticks out of the eyes and ears of the sheep. Also, this was done to deflect the blows of bigger sheep who liked to butt heads. They would kind of slide off instead of a direct blow.

How in the world does that apply to us today? What or who is bugging you? What or who is irritating you? What or who are you butting heads with? If you feel this way then you need to be refreshed by the oil of the Holy Spirit so these things will not bug you and you will not butt heads with them! Ask the Lord for a fresh anointing!

VERSE 6

1. As you follow the shepherd all your days, as you come to the end of the path He has set for you, you will enter into eternity with Him. It is not something David hoped for or we hope for, we **WILL** dwell in the house of the LORD forever! Not because of us but because of our Great Shepherd Jesus Christ!

How do I know that? Because it is not wrath and judgment that follow us but it is the goodness and mercy of God that do. And David began this Psalm content, satisfied and he ends it that way, dwelling in the house of the Lord!

PSALM 24

The focus of Psalm 24 is the King of Glory and His coming into the city of Jerusalem! It is speaking of Jesus and His second coming. Why did David write this Psalm? Some feel that it is speaking of the time the Ark was being brought up to Jerusalem by David, from the house of Obed-Edom. That could be, we are not sure but David, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is speaking prophetically of the time when Jesus returns and sets up His Kingdom here on earth. When He returns He will place his foot on the Mount of Olives and it will cleave in two, and He will pass through the Kidron Valley through the east gate and set-up His kingdom which will never be destroyed. So keep that in mind as we read through this Psalm, ***THE KING OF GLORY IS COMING!***

VERSES 1-2

1. Now this may seem like a strange way to open up this Psalm but when you look at it, David nails it. You see, what gives the right for God to rule the earth? That is a great question and David answers that for us. God not only created the earth but He provides everything, it is all His. And some may accept this and some may reject this but it doesn't change the reality of it. God has ownership of the people who live upon this earth because He not only created them but He sustains them! Every knee will bow one day to Him and may it be today if you have not received Jesus as Lord and Savior!

VERSE 3

1. This is not just an important question; it is the most important question that you will ever answer. “Who can come before God and stand with Him?” In other words, in light of God being the creator and owner of all things, who can come before Him? And David not only asks the question, but now he is going to answer it.

VERSE 4

1. David is not speaking of being a good person because the Bible tells us that there are none who are good, not even one! You need to see this in its totality. When he speaks of “**clean hands**” he is speaking of outward actions and many feel they do fine with this, but they miss the mark of perfection. And if you still think you are doing fine, then David speaks of a “**pure heart**” and he is speaking of our inward attitude or our heart and we all fail here. That is our problem; none of us can approach God in our own righteousness which are like filthy rags! None can ascend to the hill of the Lord and stand in His holy place, none of us!

Well, let me clarify that. There is One who never sinned and death could not hold Him and that is Jesus. Spurgeon put it like this, “Our Lord Jesus Christ could ascend into the hill of the Lord because his hands were clean and his heart was pure, and if we by faith in him are conformed to his image we shall enter too.” That is the key and Paul makes it clear for us in II Corinthians 5:21, “**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**” There it is, apart from Christ you cannot stand in His presence, but in Christ you can! But David does not say that, does he? Let’s read on and see that he does!

VERSES 5-6

1. Where does our righteousness come from? Does it come from doing good deeds?

Does it come from going to church? Does it come from tithing? No, no, no it only comes through God; it is His righteousness that has been imputed into our lives by faith as we read a few minutes ago. We can't do it with our own righteousness; we must receive it from God!

2. Now who does God accept? He accepts all the Jacob's of the world, the heal catchers, the supplanters, the connivers and-so-on. And thus, in knowing that it should give to us great comfort, great hope that God came to save the Jacob's of the world, sinners, you and me and that salvation is only found in Christ!

VERSES 7-10

1. Can you picture the call, "Open the Gates, the King is here! Open the Gates, the Lord of glory has come!" I think that is why David ended with "Selah" or think about this, meditate upon this because as you do it will bring great joy to your heart! "When the King of England wishes to enter the city of London, through the Temple Bar, the gate being closed against him, the herald demands entrance. 'Open the gate.' From within a voice is heard, 'Who is there?' The herald answers, 'The King of England!' The gate is at once opened, and the king passes, amidst the joyful acclamations of his people. This is an ancient custom, and the allusion is to it in this Psalm." (Evans cited in Spurgeon).

2. Now we can also see this as a picture of man's heart. That we need to open the door to our heart to let the King of glory come in! He is there on the outside knocking to get in, He will not break down the door, but He will keep knocking, desiring you to open the door to Him and receive Him as the King of your life!

3. Now what I find interesting is that even unbelievers believe that Jesus is coming back. You see, some 700 years ago or so the Turks read that the Messiah would enter through the east gate. So to prevent this from happening they put rocks and bricks at the entrance of the east gate, blocking it up. Also, they put a graveyard in the Kidron Valley so that He could not pass through. The King is coming and man's attempts at stopping Him are futile. The gates will be opened and the King of glory will come in!

4. I like the way that G. Campbell Morgan summed this up for us as he connects Psalms 22, 23 and 24 like this. "By our calendars, yesterday He passed through Psalm 22. Today He is exercising the office of Psalm 23. Tomorrow, He will exercise finally the authority of Psalm 24." The King of glory is coming, open up your gates and let Him into your life!

PSALM 25

Once again we are not sure when this Psalm was written by David since he always had enemies that were after him. The rabbis believe that it was written when David was fleeing from his rebellious son Absalom as he was usurping the kingdom from his father David. Whatever the situation, we do know that David is crying out for direction and guidance during a very difficult time. He is seeking the Lord for direction and thus, what a valuable lesson for us to learn!

VERSES 1-3

1. Why would David speak of lifting up his soul to the Lord? Because he was downcast, he saw life's situations and it brought him down and he knew that he needed to get refocused on the Lord and thus, he lifts up his soul to the one who can help. He was resting in the Lord and trusting in Him. And all those who were making false accusations against David were going to be dealt with. David was a good man, not perfect. Getting the perspective that God is in control changes everything!

2. Now here's the thing. When you are in the middle of a very difficult trial, what are you going to do? Now we can come up with many answers, many solutions to that problem, but we are not to manipulate things. We are to wait upon the Lord, seek Him, lift up our souls to Him and as we do, it does not change the situation but it changes our perspective of things. We can be at peace in the midst of the storm knowing that God is in control and He will never leave us. What a lesson for us to learn!

VERSES 4-5

1. Notice what David did not do here. He did not run to his local therapist for help. He did not run to the lawyers to bring charges against those who were coming against him. He did not sign up for the latest self-help course. What we see here is that David waited on the Lord all day for direction, for guidance. What is that going to do? As we wait upon God, as we read His Word, God will show us what we need to know, He will teach us what we need to learn, He will lead us in the way we should go! That means we need to be in His Word, in fellowship with Him and learn how to wait upon Him for direction and to find that peace, that comfort that is only found in Him.

2. And think about this for a minute. The God who has saved us, the One we trusted in for our salvation, we are now afraid to trust with the trials we face, the storms that come crashing upon our lives? That is foolish and yet we do it. Thus, get the right perspective, look up and not at the storm, look to the One who can calm the storm in your life, in your heart!

VERSES 6-7

1. David is not appealing to God according to his righteousness, for he saw his failure with his sin with Bathsheba, so he is asking for God's mercy, His lovingkindness to be poured out upon him. There is nothing wrong with pouring your heart out to God. What we must learn to do is rest in Him, trust what He is doing, what He is allowing in our lives and walk accordingly!

VERSES 8-11

1. Here is something that I think we forget about God many times. God is always teaching us lessons of faith throughout our life to deepen our faith, to draw us close to Him. It is not always easy, but it is necessary for our spiritual growth. That is what the Bible teaches us! James makes that very point in James 1:2-3, **“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”**

You see, can you count it all joy as these trials come upon your life knowing that God has a reason, a purpose and we might not always understand what that is, but can we trust Him? Paul said in Hebrews 11:1, and this is from The Amplified Bible, **“NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].”**

I like the way that Warren Wiersbe put it in his commentary on James. He said: “Our values determine our evaluations. If we value comfort more than character, then trials will upset us. If we value the material and physical more than the spiritual, we will not be able to ‘count it all joy.’ If we live only for the present and forget the future, the trials will make us bitter not better.” You see, perspective is everything!

2. Now here's the thing in regards to our sins. God does not forgive us because we are worthy or we deserve it. He forgives us because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, making us as white as snow because of His righteousness being imputed to us. David asked God to "**pardon**" his iniquity and David understood that before God his iniquity was great! The key to forgiveness or a pardon is that God forgives us not based upon what or who we are but upon Christ and what He has done. We don't deserve forgiveness and yet God freely gives it to us in Christ. May we not forget that!

VERSES 12-15

1. Who does God teach? David tells us that He teaches those who fear the Lord. Does that then mean God is hiding things from people? Not necessarily. You see, if you want to know about God, if you want to know Him then He will reveal Himself to you. If you don't then He won't speak to you and the reality is, you are not interested in what He is saying anyway. You want to do your own thing. God reveals to us His truth but we must be willing to receive it, He won't force us to receive it.

2. Where are the eyes of David? They are on the Lord. Why is that? Because it is the Lord who will direct David and it is the Lord who will keep him safe. I remember re-watching a John Wayne movie a few years ago; it was called the Green Berets! And there was one scene, as they are traveling in the jungles and getting ready to go home, that one of the men was not paying attention and stepped upon a trip wire causing him to be impaled upon these spikes. That is our problem many times, we are not watching but if we are focused on the Lord He will guide us so we will not be impaled by the spikes of sin that the enemy has set up for us!

VERSES 16-22

1. Make no mistake about it David was in trouble. You can feel the pain that he was going through but his eyes were not focused on the situation, but the Lord. And please understand that it was not that David was not unaware of his troubles, he was totally aware of them. David recognized them and he looked to the Lord who could deliver him out of it. That is important for us to understand!

2. Does God forgive sin? Absolutely but we need to come to Him and repent. We see David pouring his heart out to the Lord. Make no mistake about it, God will forgive our sins but there are still the consequences of our actions. For example, a teenage girl who is having sex and gets pregnant, if she repents of her sin, she will be forgiven. But she still remains pregnant and will have to deal with the consequences of that sin even though God has forgiven her.

3. As David finished up this Psalm the focus is not just about him but upon the nation of Israel, that God would save Israel from all her troubles. That is why I feel this Psalm was written when David was fleeing from Absalom because the whole nation was affected, not just David!

4. Let me close this Psalm with this to think about. We, like David, will be surrounded by evil, that is just the way it is. And thus, we must wait in faith for God to deliver us. And it is not always easy, in fact it may be very difficult, but we must rest in Him, being assured that He is working. Years ago, down south, a black deacon got up and gave a testimony about a verse of Scripture that was meaningful to him. He said the verse was, "It came to pass." Everyone looked puzzled, so the preacher said to him, "How is it that that particular verse means so much to you?" "Well," the deacon said, "when I am in trouble, I always get my Bible and read, 'It came to pass,' and I thank God that my troubles came to *pass*, and they did not come to *stay*." Now that may not be the correct interpretation of that verse but it truly is what the Scriptures express to us, they will come to pass and not to stay and what we must do is wait upon the Lord and rest in Him as we are going through them!

PSALM 26

Now we are not sure when David wrote this Psalm, but most likely it was written prior to David's sin with Bathsheba. The reason I say that is David is asking God to look upon his integrity. But, as we saw in Psalm 25, after his sin with Bathsheba, he is asking for God's mercy upon his life. He saw himself as he really was and that is important for us to understand. God saved us not because we were so good, but because we were so bad! It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 1:30, **“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption - that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’”** This is all that the Lord has done for us; all we must do is come to Him by faith!

VERSES 1-5

1. Again, I see this Psalm written before David's sin with Bathsheba and he saw himself as being good. But then, after this sin he sees himself as he really is. Now, as bad as David's sin with Bathsheba was, that shouldn't be the thing that David's life is judged upon. In fact, the Holy Spirit lifts David up to be the standard by which all the other Kings of Judah and Israel were to be judged by. Why?

Because David loved the Lord and his hearts desire was to do what God had instructed him and to dwell in the presence of the Lord. And he wasn't perfect, none of us are, but his walk was consistent and that is why he is held up as an example to the other leaders of the nation. In II Kings 14:3 we see how God is evaluating the spiritual condition of King Amaziah and we are told, "**And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his father David; he did everything as his father Joash had done.**"

2. Now that is not to negate the sin, David did repent of it and God was standing there with His arms of forgiveness opened wide. The thing we need to remember is where are we walking, who are we sitting with, who is influencing our lives. David tells us that he is not going to be influenced by evil men that speak vain or empty things because he is not going to fellowship with them. In other words, who you hang around with will affect your life!

Paul said in I Corinthians 15:33, "**Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'**" You see, evil will flow from you if you make it a practice to dwell with those that are doing these things. That does not mean we are not to reach out to the lost and share the love of Christ with them. We are called to do those things, but they are not to be the ones we have close, intimate, fellowship with. And Christians that are living in sin, we are not to have close fellowship with them. Paul said in I Corinthians 5:11, "**But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; not even to eat with such a person.**"

Thus, a Christian living in rebellion is treated like an unbeliever in regards to fellowship. We are still to reach out to them, and encourage them to get back on track, but because of their rebellion, we are not to have close fellowship with them. This is done not to destroy them but to restore them back to the faith.

VERSES 6-8

1. Notice that David did not just separate himself from the wicked; he separated himself unto the Lord, that was his desire, his passion. David cleansed himself before the Lord, had fellowship with the Lord.
2. As David has a relationship with the Lord, then in verse 7 we see that he is sharing the Lord with others. He is witnessing of God's great love, sharing His testimony with those around him. David tasted and he saw that the Lord was good and he is sharing that with others. And this just makes sense. How can you give to others that which you yourself don't have? You can't and thus, draw close to God and then you will be able to share the God you love with others!

3. And think about all that David had, all the material blessings, all the things and yet, David had a love, a desire not for those things but for the Lord. The Lord was the priority in his life. And it was not just being with the Lord, which David loved, but it was also serving the Lord. David did not go into the house of God to see what he could get, but what he could give! What a lesson for us. Yes, we come to church to worship the Lord, to hear from Him, but is that it? I don't think so. We come as a body of believers to bless others with the gifts that God has given to us!

VERSES 9-12

1. David's cry to God is for deliverance from going with the wicked down into the pit. For us, those in Christ, that will never happen. Jesus said in John 10:27-30, "**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.**"

Also, in John 5:24 we read, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.**" In Christ, we have that assurance!

2. Now here's the thing. Yes we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone but make no mistake about it. The devil will try to get you to sin to destroy your witness! David is saying that we need to walk in "**integrity**" we need to place our feet upon stable ground, the Rock, Jesus Christ so we will not be moved. Yes, one day all believers will be gathered together before the Lord to worship and praise Him. But until that day, may we walk the walk that God has called us to, according to His high calling for our life and that it is centered in Christ.

PSALM 27

In this Psalm of David we see once again that he is placing his trust in the Lord and it is once again during a time of difficulty!

VERSES 1-3

1. Notice what David is doing here in this difficult situation. He is focusing on who the Lord is not on who he is or what he can do. He wants a correct perspective of things. And David starts out by saying that God is light and this speaks of the purity of God. He is not deceitful or wicked but He is pure. John makes that point in I John 1:5 as he wrote, "**This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**" That is important for us to understand because as you go through tough times you can easily come to the conclusion that God is not pure, that He is deceitful or wicked and that is the wrong picture of God.

Secondly David says that God is his salvation, his strength, the one who will save him from all those that are coming against him. It is as we are told in Isaiah 41:10, “**Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.**” And it is out of all this, knowing that God is light, He is pure; in knowing that God is his strength that David can be confident that God will see him through. It is all about perspective and a correct perspective of things! Like David our confidence needs to be in the Lord and nothing else!

VERSES 4-5

1. What is the one thing that you desire in life? What is the most important thing that you desire in this life? Is it a spouse? Maybe it is a house? What about a new car? What about that great job? It could even be lots of money. Hey, I was only 6 numbers off on the Lotto, no bad, I could win! You see, whatever the passion of your heart is, that will be manifested in your life! David was a King, a warrior, and yet that was not where his heart was focused upon. His hearts desire was to worship the Lord and that is what our desire should be.

2. And it is out of that relationship that we see in verse 5 that David could rest in the Lord! You see, are you going to rest in your spouse, your house, your new car, your job, the money you have? If you try you will find that those things can be very unstable and the only thing that will bring stability in your life is the Lord, the **ROCK!**

VERSE 6

1. Did the situation change for David at this point? No but his perspective did and thus, he was able to shout with praise unto God because he was trusting in the Lord! You see, a sacrifice will cost you something and it did David. In the midst of the enemy he was going to shout for joy to the Lord and it didn't matter what they thought or what they did because the Lord was with him! As we sacrifice our lives to Him, it should bring us great joy no matter what we are going through because our joy is based in the reality of Him and not outward circumstances!

VERSES 7-10

1. Notice that when the Lord said, "**Seek My face**" that David said, "I am kind of busy right now, what about next week?" No, David did not say that. The Lord spoke and David obeyed; he understood how important it was not just to hear God's Word but to do it. You see, Nike was not the first to use the phrase "***JUST DO IT!***" David is telling us that God's desire for Him was to seek His face, and He obeyed God's command. The Lord is doing the same to us, He is saying to us "**Seek My face**" and how are we going to respond? He is calling for us to "***JUST DO IT!***"

2. And this relationship with the Lord was so important to David that he is asking the Lord to never leave him, never stop speaking to him, never give up on him. David says that his parents may give up on him, they may forsake him, but the Lord will never. Now please understand that David is not saying that his parents were bad, but if they were, God was always there, caring for him in any situation. Do you believe that for your own life? You need to because it is true! God will never leave you or forsake you!

VERSES 11-13

1. What was David's faith built upon? Not upon some abstract ideas about God, but the goodness of God that is seen in the here and now, in the lives of men according to the Word of God. If David did not see God involved with His creation, His goodness He pours out on our lives, he said that would have caused him to lose heart, his faith would be weakened. Again, David believed, he saw, and because of that, his actions reflected his love for God.

2. Have you ever been in that place where you would have fainted if you would have lost hope in God and what He has said? Hey, just look at what is happening in this country and this world and apart from God, there is no hope! And yet, even among all the evil we see, we also see the goodness of God working, saving people, healing people, providing for people and-so-on. As David said, "**I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.**" Psalm 27:13.

VERSE 14

1. As a child of God we need not fear what may come upon our life because God is in control. The thing He asks us to do is wait upon Him in faith and He will see us through those times. You will see the goodness of God. For those outside of Christ there is great fear, or at least there should be. But as a child of God, like the tee-shirt says “***NO FEAR!***” Cromwell was asked why he did not fear anyone, and his reply was this. “I have learned that if you fear God, you have no one else to fear.”

Let me leave you with this. As we study the Word of God, as we wait upon the Lord we have no fear because the Lord meets us through His Word and encourages us. In His time he will make all things beautiful!